

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T VIENNA 5019

EXDIS

FROM US MBFR REP

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: MBFR: REMARKS OF SOVIET REP

REF: VIENNA 5959

1. AT REQUEST OF SOVIET REP KHLESTOV, US REP MET WITH LATTER
AT 1900 HOURS LOCAL TIME JUNE 15.
2. WITH APPARENT SINCERITY KHLESTOV SAID HE WAS PERSONALLY
HIGHLY EMBARRASSED, BUT HE HAD NOT RECEIVED PROMISED INSTRUCTIONS
FROM HIS AUTHORITIES. HE HAD STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THEM TO
MAKE A NEW MOVE ON THE DATE ISSUE. HE HAD RECEIVED THE
REPEATED COMMITMENT FROM THE " MIDDLE LEVEL" IN MOSCOW THAT
A NEW INSTRUCTION ON THIS TOPIC WAS FORTHCOMING. HE HIMSELF
HAD REPEATEDLY REQUESTED RAPID ACTION ON THE GROUNDS THAT
THE ISSUE SHOULD BE RESOLVED IN VIENNA PRIOR TO THE NATO
MINISTERIAL AND THE BREZHNEV TRIP TO WASHINGTON. HIS SUPERIORS
HAD REPEATEDLY ASSURED HIM HE WOULD RECEIVE SUCH INSTRUCTIONS.
IN HIS LAST CONTACT THAT AFTERNOON, HE HAD AGAIN BEEN TOLD
THE SAME THING, BUT HE WAS NO LONGER SURE THAT THIS WOULD
BE THE CASE. IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT THE ISSUE HAD BEEN RESERVED
FOR SETTLEMENT ON THE TOP LEVEL.
3. KHLESTOV SAID HE WAS A MAN WHO LIKED TO KEEP HIS PERSONAL
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COMMITMENTS. HE HAD SEVERAL TIMES COMMITTED HIMSELF TO THE US REP THAT LATTER COULD EXPECT TO HEAR OF NEW SOVIET INSTRUCTIONS IN NEAR FUTURE. HE COULD ONLY EXPRESS HIS DEEP REGRET THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO FULFILL HIS COMMITMENT FOR REASONS BEYOND HIS CONTROL. IT WAS INDEED HIGHLY UNFORTUNATE THAT THE DATE ISSUE HAD NOT BEEN RESOVLED IN SOME WAY BEFORE THE NATO COUNCIL HAD ISSUED ITS COMMUNIQUE AS HE HAD RECOMMENDED. NOW THE ISSUE WAS ON THE LEVEL OF PUBLIC AND NATIONAL CONFRONTATION.

4. KHLESTOV SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO INFORM US REP AS A SLIGHT ADVANCE THAT THE SAME " MIDDLE LEVEL" IN MOSCOW HAD ACCEPTED THE LANGUAGE PROPOSED BY THE ALLIES FOR THE COMMUNIQUE ON " SCOPE AND TIMING" AND HAD STATED THAT IT HAD BEEN RECOMMENDED TO TOP SOVIET OFFICIALS THAT THIS LANGUAGE BE ACCEPTED.

5. KHLESTOV RAISED THE ISSUE OF ROMANIAN PROPOSALS ON ADDING LANGUAGE TO THE COMMUNIQUE REFERENCE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY SAYING THAT " AND WILL NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE SECURITY OF OTHER EUROPEAN STATES." KHLESTOV SAID HE WAS NOT OPPOSED TO THIS WORDING BUT FELT THAT IT HAD BEEN RAISED AT A VERY ADVANCED STAGE. IT WOULD BE UNWISE IN HIS VIEW TO REOPEN THE WORDING OF THE COMMUNIQUE, EVEN FOR AN UNEXCEPTIONABLE ITEM SUCH AS THIS. HE ASKED US REP FOR HIS VIEWS. US REP SAID CONSTANTINESCU HAD RAISED THE MATTER WITH HIM AND THAT HE HAD REPLIED IN A SIMILAR VEIN, REPROACHING CONSTANTINESCU FOR NOT HAVING MADE THE PROPOSAL EARLIER WHEN THE COMMUNIQUE TEXT WAS IN THE FORMATIVE STAGE.

6. KHLESTOV SAID HIS PRESENT INTENTION WAS TO REMAIN IN VIENNA DURING THE NEXT WEEK ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE DATE ISSUE WOULD BE RESOLVED AT THE TOP LEVEL AND THAT THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE WOULD THEN BE ISSUED BY A PLENARY IN VIENNA.

7. COMMENT: IF WASHINGTON WISHES, US REP COULD GO BACK TO KHLESTOV WITH SUGGESTION ON INFORMAL, PERSONAL BASIS TO THE EFFECT THAT A SOLUTION MIGHT BE FOUND IF SOVIETS WOULD ACCEPT OCTOBER 30 AND CONTENT THEMSELVES WITH A UNILATERAL STATEMENT THAT THEY ASSUMED THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BEGIN,
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AS NORMALLLY, WITH A PHASE OF GENERAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE SUBJECT MATTER. HOWEVER, WE THINK THAT DEVELOPMENTS HAVE PROBABLY PASSED BEYOND STAGE WHERE THIS TYPE OF APPROACH WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE. HUMES

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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